

SIMS GIVES WARNING ON CONSERVATISM

Tells War College Graduates of Type Often Cause of Defeat.

FOR LOGICAL THINKING

Navy Has Lagged Behind in Adoption of Many New Ideas.

'SAFETY FIRST' TWOFOLD

Adopt Not Kind Adhering to Past, but That Looking Ahead.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
NEWPORT, R. I., Nov. 19.—Twenty-five officers of the navy were graduated from the War College this morning and received their diplomas. The exercises were held in the training station auditorium and the address was made by Rear Admiral William S. Sims, president of the college, and the reply from the class by Rear Admiral Henry A. Wiley.

Admiral Sims spoke on "military conservatism," inviting the consideration of the graduates to that type and degree of military conservatism which has been responsible for defeat in battle and sometimes for national disaster.

"All men," he said, "are naturally more or less conservative, certainly all civil professions are decidedly so, but they can afford to be without much danger to the country, whereas, in the case of the military profession, national disaster might easily result from a lack of vision necessary to recognize the superiority of a new weapon or a new method of warfare."

"That military men are conservative admits of no doubt, whether they are more so than civilians is beside the question. The important point is that their conservatism may be so dangerous that it is highly important that they should so train their minds in logical thinking as to eliminate or at least minimize this danger."

Instances of Conservatism.
"We hope that the training at the Naval War College will have this effect, and I believe it will prove our understanding of the influence of conservatism in the past is such as to convince us that we must avoid its danger in the future. With this end in view it will be useful to invite attention to certain instances of this defect that are recorded in the history of warfare and also to certain recent instances that will show the influence it has exerted, and perhaps is still exerting upon the minds of our contemporaries."

"Among the most primitive weapons the bow was a vastly more efficient instrument of warfare than the sword, the mace or the pike, but almost without exception it was never accepted as a proper arm for the knight or the warrior. So, down through the ages, the crossbow was an advance upon the bow in power and efficiency, but it never became the predominant arm."

"It would seem that there was for many centuries a settled prejudice against projectiles, or perhaps rather against the men who launched the projectiles, because it was considered that these men required less courage than the wielders of short arm weapons. This prejudice persisted for a considerable period even after the introduction of firearms."

"So in marine warfare, galleys were reluctantly given up for sails, and in turn sails gave place to steam, the authorities being disposed to rely on what had in former years admirably answered the purpose."

Opposition to New Ideas.

The speaker referred to the introduction of Fulton's steam propelled sailing battery and Ericsson's invention, and the extreme reluctance of these in au-

thority even to consider the adoption of new weapons.

"The introduction of armor," he said, "was opposed strenuously for many years and in comparatively recent times we have seen wide fluctuation of opinion as to the relative importance of armor and volume of gun fire; there was also a long and costly controversy over the adoption of breech loading guns and the nature of projectiles."

"While America has been distinctly in the lead in originating many important features in naval design and in the invention of types and weapons of fundamental importance, our navy has lagged behind in the adoption and general application even of our own American improvements and inventions. Many of our inventors had to go abroad for recognition. It is by reason of this

attitude that our navy found itself so absurdly deficient in marksmanship during the Spanish war; so deficient in destroyers, submarines and airplanes when we entered the great war and it is for this reason that we are still without battle cruisers."

Warning Against Danger.

"We must be on our guard against the dangers of a lack of vision and of a lack of confidence in the conclusions derived from a candid and logical examination of the significance of established military facts. Our objective must not be 'safety first' in the sense of adherence to already tested practices and implements, but safety first in being the first to recognize, the first to experiment with and the first to adopt improvements of distinct military value."

AID FILIPINO CHILDREN.

MANILA, P. I., Nov. 18.—Organization of the American Guardian Association to assist children born of American fathers and Filipino mothers was announced to-day. Governor-General Wood was elected honorary president. Lieut.-Col. Gordon Johnston, chosen acting manager, announced aid will be given all needy children of such parentage. A number of girls who had been sold into slavery already have been assisted.



MINUET

Recorded by the Composer

ALFRED MIROVITCH

for

The AMPICO

Reproducing Piano

"The widespread chords, ornamented with little fluttering trills, suggested the crinoline and flounces of those who might have danced to his measures."—*New York Times*.

Please hear this marvelous Ampico recording of a very beautiful new composition. Hearing it will make you realize the pleasure of owning an Ampico.

Please Ask to Hear the Ampico

Knabe Warerooms
5th Ave. at 39th St.

Flint's Fine Furniture

COMFORT AND GOOD CHEER

are drawn in no small measure from the wholesome influence of good Dining Room Furniture. It is undeniably true that the beauty of an attractive Suite adds to the pleasure of the meal—whether it be a purely family one or that graced by an honored guest.

FLINT QUALITY DEPENDABLE DINING ROOM FURNITURE

Meets every requisite of sound construction with beauty of design and enduring finish. From the standpoint of intrinsic worth, prices are far lower than present day conditions warrant.



DINING ROOM SUITES

from \$271 to \$2400

BREAKFAST ROOM SUITES

from \$77 to \$433

BEDROOM SUITES

from \$159 to \$1095

UPHOLSTERED LIVING ROOM SUITES

from \$214 to \$1490

Flint & Horner Co. Inc.
20-26 West 36th St.
"Conveniently Near Fifth Avenue."

B. Altman & Co.

MADISON AVENUE-FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

Thirty-fourth Street

TELEPHONE 7000 MURRAY HILL

Thirty-fifth Street

HOLIDAY GIFT SUGGESTIONS

At \$5.00 or less

From \$5.00 to 10.00

From \$10.00 to 15.00

Women's Hand Bags
Men's Linen Handkerchiefs (dozen)
Fountain Pens
Sterling Silver Pencils
Hasty-line Pads (leather)
Silk Couch Pillows
Children's Silk Umbrellas
Infants' Cashmere Sacques
Cretenne Desk Sets (four pieces)
Men's Leather Traveling Slippers

Electric Lamps (with shade)
Cloisonne Boxes
Gold-plated Pencils
Leather Telephone Pads
Men's Silk Mufflers
Sterling Silver Clocks
Sterling Silver Photo Frames
Motor Pouches
Brief Cases
Vest-pocket Kodaks

Real Lace Handkerchiefs
Thermos Sets (pitcher, glass and tray)
Cigarette Cases, sterling silver
Letter Cases, pin seal, gold-trimmed
Book Ends (pair)
Smokers' Sets of brass (five pieces)
Mahogany Sewing Tables
Tip-tables (solid mahogany, inlaid)
Chinese Porcelain Vases (small)
Floor Lamps (wrought iron, with parchment shade)

Monday Sales to precede Thanksgiving

New merchandise at special prices

A Group of

The Newest Hats

for mid-season or later wear; presenting combinations of felt with straw, and duvetyne with beaver, as well as some smart models in satin

specially priced at

\$15.00

In the French Millinery Salon
(Third Floor)

A Remarkable Sale of

Belgian Hand-made Laces

to begin to-morrow (Monday)

will comprise an exceedingly large purchase of really fine laces, among them Valenciennes, point Binche, Malines, point Venise, Duchesse and point Gaze; all of which will be offered at fully

50-per-cent. below the customary prices

In this extraordinary collection are collars, edgings, centerpieces, doilies and other decorative lace pieces of great attractiveness and desirability.

A splendid opportunity for purchasing the unusual gift at an unusual price.

(First Floor)

5,400 Yards of

Imported Gingham

30 and 31 inches wide; comprising a pleasing variety of checks in the desired colors

exceptionally priced at

58c. per yard

(First Floor)

A New Purchase of

Misses' Frocks

in five distinctive models

for afternoon, street, dinner and theatre wear; showing interesting developments in Canton crepe (with and without chiffon combination), chiffon velvet, crepe de Chine, and in Poiret twill combined with crepe de Chine

offering exceptional value at

\$37.00

The range of colors is particularly striking

(Second Floor)

Women's Quilted

Crepe de Chine Robes

(a new purchase); a most attractive Tuxedo model, lined throughout with silk and quilted with lambs'-wool representing

extraordinary value at

\$18.50

War Revenue tax additional

(Third Floor)

Women's

French Lingerie Blouses

(all hand-made throughout)

in a variety of charming models, daintily fashioned of sheer fabrics; the greater number all-white, although some have a touch of color; variously, but in every instance

phenomenally low-priced at

\$4.50, 6.90 & 9.75

(Third Floor)

Answer to the Roll Call of the American Red Cross